

Minutes Historical Museum Advisory Board December 6, 2007

Minutes of the Historical Museum Advisory Board held on December 6, 2007, 9:00 a.m., at the Tempe Historical Museum Board Room, 809 E. Southern Avenue, Tempe, Arizona.

Board Present:

Gail Fisher, Chair
Anne Chandler
Marcia Cypert
Betty Enz
Dan Killoren
Robert McKinley
Lisa Roach
Frank Schmuck

Board Absent:

Jean Berry, Vice Chair

City Staff Present:

Jody Ulich, Deputy Community Services Manager, Cultural Services
Amy Douglass, Museum Administrator
James Burns, Curator of History
Jerri Copenhaver, Administrative Assistant

Guest Present:

Victor Linoff

Meeting convened at 9:05 a.m.

Chair Gail Fisher called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes: November 1, 2007

MOTION: Robert McKinley moved to approve the minutes of November 1, 2007.

SECOND: Lisa Roach

DECISION: Carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 2 – Communications

- **Chair Gail Fisher** introduced new Board member **Dan Killoren**. **Mr. Killoren** said he is a Ph.D. student in the Public History program at **Arizona State University**. He also serves on the **Tempe Historic Preservation Commission** and works at **Salt River Project**.
- **Ms. Fisher** announced that this was the last Museum Advisory Board meeting that **Jody Ulich** would attend before she moves to Texas. She congratulated **Ms. Ulich** on her accomplishments while working for the City.
- **Dr. Amy Douglass** distributed brochures about the **Petersen House** Danish Christmas and said the month-long event had a successful start the previous weekend.
- **Ms. Fisher** said the decorations at the **Petersen House** look beautiful. She also said she contacted the manager at **Copenhagen Imports** and he agreed to display the event flyers.
- **Dr. Douglass** distributed forms for the "Larry Campbell Tree of Lights." She said the annual fundraiser helps support the museum's oral history program.

Agenda Item 3 – Museum Renovation

Dr. Amy Douglass gave a PowerPoint presentation that had been prepared by **Weddle Gilmore Architects** showing the preliminary plans for the **museum's renovation**.

- She encouraged the Board to offer their input during the presentation and reminded them that these are only preliminary ideas.
- The presentation included information about the goals of the renovation, proposed interior and exterior changes, and proposed components for the exhibits.
- The Board asked questions about some of plans including the children's gallery, the changing exhibit space, and exhibit signage.
- **James Burns**, the museum's Curator of History, said the museum staff composed an overarching message for the galleries: "Tempe is a Southwestern desert urban community with a distinct identity and sense of place."
- He said the museum staff designed a "sense of place" exercise to assist them with planning the gallery renovation by showing how various people perceive Tempe's identity and "sense of place."
- **Mr. Burns** distributed copies of the exercise and asked the Board to participate by sharing their thoughts.

Agenda Item 4 – Museum "Tag Line"

Dr. Amy Douglass reported that she contacted the City Attorney's office about the public contest to solicit ideas for a new **museum tag line**.

- She said she wanted to be sure that copyright issues and other concerns were handled properly during the **tag line** contest.
- **Dr. Douglass** showed a release statement that was created by the City Attorney's office and said the public would need to agree to the terms on the release before they could participate in the contest.
- After showing the form, **Dr. Douglass** asked the Board if they still wanted to move forward with the contest. There was Board consensus to move forward with the **tag line** contest.

Agenda Item 5 – Lecture and Book Signing – Frank Schmuck

Frank Schmuck reported on the **lecture and book signing** with **Colonel Matthew Bogdanos** on November 8.

- He distributed copies of a spreadsheet showing the income and expenses for the fundraising event and how the proceeds were distributed between the **Tempe Historical Society (THS)**, the **American Veteran's Hall of Fame Society**, and **Kiwanis**.
- **Mr. Schmuck** said the **THS** received \$3,280.
- He said he has begun contacting several people to discuss the possibility of making this type of an event an annual affair.
- **Mr. Schmuck** said they have already begun searching for a possible speaker.
- The Board discussed the event and thanked **Mr. Schmuck** for his work on the fundraiser.

Agenda Item 6 – Board Standing Committee and Representative Reports

6A Petersen House Endowment Committee

Marcia Cypert said the **Petersen House Endowment Committee** did not meet in November.

- She read a report that listed the donations that have been received for the current **Petersen House Endowment** fundraiser. There have been several "in kind" donations and \$1050 in cash donations.
- Since the fundraiser has not been as successful as last year, **Ms. Cypert** said the Committee would be looking for new fundraising ideas.
- **Chair Gail Fisher** suggested making follow-up telephone calls to the potential donors.

6B Public Programs Representative

Chair Gail Fisher said she attended the **Public Program Committee** meeting on December 4.

- **Ms. Fisher** reported that the opening reception on November 9 for the museum's exhibit, *Art*

with a Cause, was well attended.

- She said planning continues for the exhibit, *Jewel in the Desert*, about the local Muslim community.
- She said they also discussed the **Petersen House** Danish Christmas and other upcoming museum events.

6C Policy, Procedures and Accessions Representative

Anne Chandler read a report listing the new provisional deposits, loans and accessions for November.

- There are currently 114 provisional deposits. Two new provisional deposits and one incoming loan were received.
- There were 14 new acquisitions approved for the permanent collection.

6D Historic Preservation Representative

Lisa Roach said she attended the **Historic Preservation Commission's (HPC)** meeting on November 8. She read portions of the minutes from the meeting.

- There was a discussion about incentives for historic preservation.
- There was also a presentation of the new redevelopment plans for **Monti's La Casa Vieja**.
- **Ms. Roach** circulated a rendering showing the revised plans, which now have the new building set back six feet from the historic adobe building.
- She said the **HPC** would not meet in December.

6E Tempe Historical Society Representative

Betty Enz reported that the **Tempe Historical Society (THS) Board** would be meeting on December 12.

- She said the reception for the "Larry Campbell Tree of Lights" would be on December 16.
- **Ms. Enz** also encouraged the Board to shop at the **THS** gift shop, and said most of the items in the shop have been discounted.

6F Diversity Awareness Representative

Marcia Cypert said she attended the November meeting of the Muslim exhibit advisory committee.

- She said they are busy working on their plans for the upcoming exhibit, *Jewel in the Desert*, which will open in the City Hall gallery in 2008.
- She said the exhibit advisory committee would be meeting again on December 12.

Agenda Item 7 – Board Announcements

Lisa Roach announced there would be a golf tournament, hosted by the **Guess Birchett Questers**, on April 18, 2008 to benefit the **Elias-Rodriguez House**.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

There were no requests for future agenda items.

The Board's next meeting will be January 3, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Prepared by: Jerri Copenhaver